

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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CHAPTER 900

RECREATION

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## **900 RECREATION**

Recreation is an integral part of the management of the Marinette County Forest and recreation uses are referenced in most of the previous chapters. Due to the tremendous growth in recreational demands over the duration of the last planning period, this Plan recognizes the importance of more intensive recreational planning and emphasizes its importance with a separate chapter.

## **905 PLANNING**

In addition to this Plan, the [Marinette County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan](#) also guides the recreation program. This plan is revised every five years and is made part of this Plan. The Marinette County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan includes, but is not limited to, activities on the County Forest. It incorporates snowmobile and ATV plans, campgrounds, parks and boat landings, recreational maintenance and development plans and other recreation surveys and reports.

The Marinette County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), public input, and other local or regional planning documents will be used as resources in recreational planning and development efforts. The responsibility for recreational planning, development and maintenance on the County Forest will rest with the Committee.

## **910 AUTHORITY**

The Marinette County Code of Ordinances and s.28.11 Wis. Stats, authorize the Marinette County Infrastructure Committee to provide recreational opportunities for the public. This authority is further recognized in the mission statement for the County Forest Plan (Chapter 100), which specifically identifies outdoor recreational opportunities. This mission statement also charges the Committee to conduct activities in a manner that prevents or minimizes environmental damage.

## **915 ENTRANCE AND USER FEES**

The Committee is empowered and shall have responsibility for establishing entrance, camping and other user fees on recreational facilities maintained by the Marinette County Forest. Camping, entrance or other fees shall be comparable to fees charged by neighboring counties and are subject to periodic change by the Committee. Fees, where appropriate, will be utilized to assist in the maintenance of recreational facilities.

## **920 RECREATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS**

It is permissible for the Committee to contract with clubs or individuals to provide for recreational maintenance or services to the public. As part of the Plan, the County contracts for the following services:

1. Snowmobile trail grooming and maintenance  
Dun-Good Riders, Iron Snowshoe, Kumalong Riders, Near North Trail Riders, Pemenee River Riders, Ranger City Riders, River Road Riders.
2. ATV trail grading and maintenance  
Dun-Good Riders, Iron Snowshoe, Pemenee River Riders, Near North Trail Riders
3. Equestrian trail maintenance  
Clip Clop Horseback Riding Club

## **925 RECREATIONAL USE PERMITS FOR ORGANIZED EVENTS**

Any event on the Forest which is advertised to the public, for which a fee is charged, or is otherwise organized as an event, requires a permit or authorization by the Committee. Permits may be issued by the Committee provided the use is consistent with management activities and will not cause resource damage. Appropriate levels of event liability insurance is required.

## **930 UNDESIGNATED RECREATIONAL USE OF THE FOREST**

Undesignated recreation includes those informal activities for which the County generally does not provide a facility or service. These uses include activities such as hunting, fishing, biking, hiking and others. These uses do not require a permit but must be conducted in compliance with ordinance. The Forest Administrator and the Committee shall periodically review such uses and enact ordinances as necessary to protect from resource damage.

#### 930.1 HUNTING

The entire County Forest is open for regulated hunting, with the exception of areas developed for high public use. See 935.1 and 935.2 for list of areas with hunting/firearm restrictions. These listed areas do not allow any hunting or firearm use within the entire designated boundaries. The Marinette County Code of Ordinances regulates activities relating to hunting. In general the following activities are regulated:

1. Stands cannot remain in one location for more than three consecutive weeks at a time
2. Stands must have owner's contact information attached in plain site
3. Screw in steps and lag screws are not permitted
4. Cutting of vegetation is not permitted

#### 930.2 FISHING

All lakes and streams within the forest are available for fishing unless otherwise listed in state regulations.

#### 930.3 PICNICKING / DAY USE

Picnicking and other day uses, outside of established facilities is allowed. The Marinette County Code of Ordinances also regulates day use. In general, the following activities are regulated:

1. All litter, trash or rubbish must be removed
2. Cutting or harvesting vegetation is not permitted
3. Fires may not be left unattended unless the ground is 100% snow covered

#### 930.4 CAMPING

A permit is required to camp outside of developed campgrounds on the County Forest. Permits are available from the County Forestry Office, Land Information Office, online and at various vendors throughout the county. See [Marinette County's website](#) for a list of vendors. In general the following activities are regulated:

1. No littering or site destruction will be tolerated.
2. The Infrastructure Committee will set the permit fee.
3. The permit is issued on an annual basis. Camping is limited to no more than 14 days in a 21-day period.
4. Natural vegetation and terrain may not be damaged or altered in any way, except for the construction of an adequate fire ring. Fasteners such as nails, screws or bolts may not be attached to trees.
5. Manufactured materials (lumber, concrete, plastics, etc.) may not be left on the site when it is vacated. No trees or other vegetation, either native or exotic, may be planted on the site.

#### 930.5 MOTORIZED TRAVEL

Marinette County regulates motorized uses on the County Forest. The full text of these regulations can be found in the [Marinette County Code of Ordinances](#).

#### 930.6 OTHER USES

Other uses of the County Forest are permitted provided they are not specifically addressed with the County Code of Ordinances. Mountain Biking, Horseback riding, and other non-motorized uses are currently not regulated. The County Board may, at any time, enact ordinances to protect the forest should damage begin to occur.

### **935 DESIGNATED RECREATION AREAS/USES**

Designated recreation includes those uses for which Marinette County provides a trail or facility. The Marinette County Forest has developed sites and areas to accommodate a fairly high degree of public use. The Committee may prohibit other recreation activities that are not compatible with the intent of the developed facilities.

The Committee and Forestry Department has noted a marked increase in demand for recreation facilities. Marinette County may attempt to develop additional facilities and will maintain its currently developed facilities.

## 935.1 CAMPGROUNDS

### 935.1.1 Twin Bridge Park

Twin Bridge Park is located on High Falls Flowage on the Peshtigo River in the Town of Stephenson. The park is both a day use park and campground featuring 62 campsites, one group campsite, electrical hookups, a shower building, sanitary dump station, swimming beach, playground, and access to fishing.

### 935.1.2 Veterans Memorial Park

Veterans Memorial Park is located on the Thunder River, a Class 1 trout stream, in the Town of Stephenson. The park is both a day use and campground featuring 15 campsites, electrical hookups, vault toilets, hand pump for water, waterfalls, a wooden bridge, hiking and fishing.

### 935.1.3 McClintock Park

McClintock Park is located on the Peshtigo River in the Town of Silver Cliff. The campground features 10 ATV/UTV accessible campsites, vault toilets, and a hand pump for water. The park features a wooden bridge, old rustic cabins for day use, hiking and fishing. The campground and park have separate entrances.

### 935.1.4 Goodman Park

Goodman Park is located on the Peshtigo River in the Town of Silver Cliff. The park is both a day use park and campground featuring 15 campsites, a sanitary dump station, vault toilets, hand pump for water, 2 lodges, a cabin, waterfalls, a wooden bridge, hiking, a playground and fishing.

### 935.1.5 Twelve Foot Falls Park

Twelve Foot Falls Park is located on the Pike River in the Town of Dunbar. The park is both a day use park and campground featuring 12 campsites, vault toilets, a hand pump for water, 2 waterfalls, hiking, and fishing.



#### 935.1.6 Morgan Park

Morgan Park is located on Timm's Lake in the Town of Niagara. The park is both a day use park and campground featuring 45 campsites, a group site, a lodge for day use, electrical hookups, a shower building, a sanitary dump station, a swimming beach, playground, hiking, fishing and primitive, undeveloped boat landing.

### 935.2 YOUTH CAMP

#### 935.2.1 Camp Bird

Camp Bird Youth Camp is located on Sand Lake in the Town of Stephenson. The camp features 42 log cabin buildings with a modern kitchen facility, dining center, recreation center, arts and crafts building, nature center, running water, sinks, showers, flush toilets and electricity. The camp is available for rent by youth, school, church and adult user groups.

### 935.3 PICNIC / DAY USE AREAS

#### 935.3.1 Menominee River Park

Menominee River Park is located on the Menominee River in the Town of Wagner. The park is a day use park featuring vault toilets, drinking water, picnic tables, grills, hiking and fishing. Boat access is available directly outside the park.

#### 935.3.2 Dave's Falls Park

Dave's Falls Park is located on the Pike River in the Town of Amberg. The park features vault toilets, drinking water, picnic tables, grills, a playground, waterfalls, hiking, and fishing.

#### 935.3.3 Dolan Lake Park

Dolan Lake Park is located on Dolan Lake in the Town of Athelstane. The park features vault toilets, picnic tables, swimming and fishing.

#### 935.3.4 Long Slide Falls Wayside Park

Long Slide Falls Park is located on the North Branch of the Pemebonwon River in the Town of Niagara. The park features a vault toilet, a picnic table, waterfalls, hiking and fishing.

#### 935.4 SWIMMING AREAS / BEACHES

Designated swimming areas are provided at Twin Bridge Park, Morgan Park and Dolan Lake Park.

#### 935.5 BOAT LANDINGS

As a result of the wide distribution of lakes, streams, rivers, and other surface waters on the Forest, water access may be planned, developed, or restricted as a component of the overall Forest access management plan. Several primitive boat and canoe landings, and adjacent roads currently provide water access on the Forest primarily for recreational activities. In addition, these water access points also provide water supply points for fire apparatus working to suppress forest fires or nearby structural fires.

The existing water access points will be maintained to provide a place to launch a small fishing boat or canoe. Not all watercraft will be able to use these access points. These landings are available for public use and not for private boat mooring sites. Mooring or storing boats for longer than 24 hours is prohibited.

##### 935.5.1 Public Boat Access Sites Maintained by Marinette County Forest

Currently there are no public boat landings maintained by Marinette County Forest staff on County Lands.

##### 935.5.2 Public Boat Access Sites Maintained by Towns

Currently there are no public boat landings maintained by Town staff on County Lands.

##### 935.5.3 Public Boat Access Sites Maintained by DNR

Currently there are no public boat landings maintained by DNR staff on County Lands.

#### 935.5.4 Undeveloped Water Access Points

Other undeveloped water access points for canoes and boats currently exist on the Forest. These are used routinely to hand launch boats or canoes but have not been developed for boat trailer launching. These sites are not routinely maintained and may be closed if erosion damage becomes severe. All new sites for developed water access must be reviewed and approved by the Committee.

#### 935.6 SKI/TUBING HILLS

Currently, there are no designated skiing or tubing hills located on the Marinette County forest.

#### 935.7 RIFLE RANGE

The Dunbar Sportsman's Club maintains a rifle range on the Marinette County Forest through a Special Land Use Agreement.

#### 935.8 – OTHER

### **940 DESIGNATED RECREATION TRAILS**

Designated recreation trails are those for which the County provides a designated trail and/or facility. The County currently provides trail systems that accommodate a fairly high degree of public use. The Committee may prohibit other activities on these trails that are not compatible with the intent of the development.

Whenever possible, multiple uses of various trail systems are encouraged and are subject to policy review of the Committee. Wherever possible, attempts will be made to avoid user conflicts. Recreational users, however, will frequently encounter forest management activities instrumental to the existence and future of the County Forest. Trail systems are identified in Chapter 1000.

#### 940.1 NON-MOTORIZED RECREATION TRAILS

The Marinette County Forest is a multiple use forest. Non-motorized recreation trails are a legitimate use of the forest. Design and maintenance of these trails may highlight natural features present on the Forest, should minimize damage, and reduce user conflict. Trail use and development must be compatible and sustainable with the characteristics of the

landscape. It is the policy of the Committee to manage non-motorized recreation trails on the County Forest.

#### 940.1.1 Hiking Trails

##### *940.1.1.1*

1. Lake Mary Hunter Walking Trail (T33N R21E, Sec. 13)
2. Peshtigo River Hunter Walking Trail (T35N R17E, Sec. 15,16,17)
3. Long Slide Hunter Walking Trail (T37N R20E, Sec. 13,24)
4. Pike River Hunter Walking Trail East (T36N-R18E, Sec. 1,2)
5. Pike River Hunter Walking Trail West (T37N-R18E, Sec. 35, 36)
6. Goodman Park Hiking Trail (T35N-R17E, Sec. 14, 23)
7. Morgan Park Hunter Walking Trail (37N-R21E, Sec. 17)

#### 940.1.2 Mountain Bike/Fat Tire/Bicycle Trails

Marinette County is in the process of creating and establishing a designated mountain bike trail system in association with the Goodman Park Hiking Trail.

#### 940.1.3 Equestrian Trails

Two designated horseback riding trails are found on county forest lands. Horseshoe Falls Equestrian Trails is located off of Twelve Foot Falls Road in the Town of Dunbar. Middle Inlet Horse Trails and Camp is located off of County Forest Road 901 in the Town of Middle Inlet. Both of these trail systems provide parking areas, outhouses, high lines for tying horses, manure pits, picnic tables, fire rings and an open areas for overnight camping with the purchase of a Forest Camping Sticker. Maps can be found [here](#).

#### 940.1.4 Ski Trails

Currently, there are no designated ski trails located on the Marinette County Forest.

#### 940.1.5 Other

#### 940.1.6 Future non-motorized trail systems

The development of additional non-motorized trail systems will include careful consideration of public demand, analysis of user conflicts and potential damage to the natural resource. Trail system development should comply with the Outdoor Recreation Plan goals and be referenced in SCORP or other regional planning documents. Non-motorized trail systems generally are not supported by statewide grant programs. The County may require proof of an organized club, or user group, with the ability to assist with maintenance and support of the trail and associated facilities. Appropriate trail passes, or other user fees, may be implemented as indicated in Section 905.

### 940.2 MOTORIZED RECREATION TRAILS

#### 940.2.1 Designated Snowmobile Trails

Designated snowmobile trails are those recognized by the Committee as the official trails within the County. The Forestry Department manages the snowmobile trail system in Marinette County. Annual agreements outline the operation, maintenance and insurance obligations between the County and local clubs. Link to the map can be found in the Appendix.

The Marinette County Code of Ordinance regulates snowmobile trails. A summary of rules and regulations relating to snowmobile trails is as follows:

- a. Snowmobile trails are closed to all vehicular traffic, excluding snowmobiles, ATVs and UTVs from December 15 through April 30 unless trails are numbered forest roads, town roads, county, state and federal highways, or private roads intended for public use.
- b. The Forest Administrator will make determinations to officially open and close snowmobile trails based on snow and maintenance conditions.
- c. Snowmobile trails used for logging access during snowmobile season will be posted with signs warning users of activity.
- d. Vehicles may be used on snowmobile trails for timber harvesting activities, for approved trail maintenance activities, for access to private property

across county land and for County and State employees for the course of their normal work duties.

#### *940.2.1.1 Trail Types*

The County recognizes several different classifications of snowmobile trail:

State Funded Trails – these are state approved and funded trail miles on designated trails that are part of a statewide network of trail systems. Snowmobile registration fees and gas tax allotments fund grants that support maintenance, rehabilitation and development of these trails. There are approximately 539 miles of funded trails in Marinette County, with approximately 234 miles on County Forest Lands.

Unfunded Trails – these are segments of trail that meet the eligibility requirements for a funded trail system but have not been included in the grant system due to restrictions on available funding. There are approximately 228 miles of unfunded trails in Marinette County. It is recommended that the county continues to apply for grants to include these in the funded system.

#### *940.2.1.2 Trail Maintenance*

Marinette County has agreements with Dun-Good Riders, Iron Snowshoe, Kumalong Riders, Near North Trail Riders, Pemenee River Riders, Ranger City Riders and River Road Riders to groom the snowmobile trail system. The County periodically assists with trail maintenance projects as needed.

The County shall inspect and monitor bridges and other infrastructure on the trail system and attempt to secure funding from grants, or other sources, to periodically replace or rehabilitate as needed.

#### *940.2.1.3 Future Snowmobile Trails*

The Committee shall have jurisdiction over any new trail development proposals. It is recommended that future trails be considered only after careful consideration of costs, benefits and impacts and as part of a larger planning effort.

Proposals to relocate trails or to make adjustments to the existing trail system will be encouraged where there are concerns of public safety or environmental damage. Unfunded and club trails should be evaluated for maintenance funding application.

#### *940.2.2 Designated ATV Trails*

Designated ATV Trails are those recognized by the Committee as official trails within the County. These may lie on County, private, or other agency lands. Annual agreements outline the operation, maintenance and insurance obligations between the County and local clubs. Map link can be found in the Appendix.

##### *940.2.2.1 Trail Types*

The County recognizes several different classifications of ATV trail. Maps are appended for reference.

1. Funded Winter ATV Trails – All of the state funded snowmobile trails on the County Forest are also designated and funded as winter use ATV trails. There are approximately 234 miles of winter funded ATV trail in Marinette County, with approximately 230 miles on County Forest lands.
2. Funded Summer ATV Trails – these are trail systems funded only for summer use. These trails are open from May 1 through December 14 each year unless posted otherwise. There are approximately 206 miles of summer use ATV trails in Marinette County with all the miles on the County Forest.

3. Funded Year Round Trails - these are trail systems funded for both winter and summer use. There are approximately 206 miles of year round funded ATV trails in Marinette County with all of the miles on the County Forest.
4. Funded UTV Trails – UTV’s, or side by sides, can be allowed on ATV trail systems. Marinette County allows for UTV’s on all funded miles of the ATV trail system within the County.
5. Funded Troute/Hybrid Trails – The ATV/UTV program does not allow for full maintenance funding on ATV/UTV trails that are open to highway traffic (cars, trucks, etc.) ATV trails with this dual use that were maintained and funded prior to August 1, 2012 are still funded at 100% of the annual per mile maintenance rate. Trails funded after August 1, 2012 allow for partial funding under the following categories:
  - a. County Forest Gas Tax Roads – these are gas tax roads used as a connector to trails or services and are funded at a rate determined by the full per mile funding rate, less gas tax funding rate, not to exceed 50% of the full maintenance funding rate. Marinette County maintains 7.3 miles of County Forest Road Troutes.
  - b. Hybrid Trails – these are trails designated as ATV trails, opened after August 1, 2012, that also permit highway vehicle traffic. Marinette County currently has no hybrid trails.



#### *940.2.2.2 ATV Trail Maintenance*

The County has agreements with Dun-Good Riders, Iron Snowshoe, Near North Trail Riders, Pemenee River Riders, and Ranger City Riders for trail maintenance. The County periodically assists with trail maintenance projects as needed.

The County shall inspect and monitor trails, bridges and other infrastructure and attempt to secure funding from grants, or other sources, to periodically replace improvements or rehabilitate trail surfaces or bridges as needed.

#### *940.2.2.3 Future ATV Trails*

The use and popularity of ATVs and UTVs increased dramatically over the period of the 2006-2020 County Forest Plan. Increased usage of trail systems proved a tremendous need for much higher levels of trail maintenance in order to manage environmental damages.

Adding ATV trails should be done as part of larger planning effort that incorporates considerations for impact on other users and user groups; how future trail systems will be maintained; and impact on the natural resources. New ATV trail systems will only be considered with the following framework:

- Trails should be designed and planned to connect communities.
- Loop trails will be discouraged unless part of a larger trail system that connects communities.
- Dead end trails will not be sanctioned as part of the County ATV trail system.
- Intensive use areas will not be permitted on Marinette County Forest lands.
- Trails will only be considered on suitable soils and in appropriate locations.

It is critical that trail layout and design is done in such a way as to prevent erosion and soil loss. Trails must be developed to sustainably. For the purpose of this plan, sustainability is defined as follows:

**Sustainability** – For the purpose of ATV trails, the term sustainability is intended to mean the development of a trail surface that is maintainable. It appears evident there are no circumstances where an ATV trail can be considered sustainable without intensive maintenance. Of primary importance, trail surfaces need to be conducive to periodic grading or restoration that promotes water runoff from the trail surface and eliminates the opportunity for water flow to gain velocity, causing erosion. Trails should be built with a slight crown and appropriate ditching to allow for adequate and proper water dispersal. To this end, the construction and development of new ATV trails are to comply with the **WCFA ATV/ORV Trail Standards**, which is appended to this Plan.

#### 940.2.3 Designated Motorcycle Trails

Marinette County does not currently have any designated motorcycle trails. Future development of motorcycle trails will be considered on a case by case basis and must fit within this Plan.

#### 940.2.4 Other Designated Motor Vehicle Trails

Marinette County does not currently have any other designated motor vehicle trails. Future development of designated motor vehicle trails will be consider on a case by case basis and must fit within this Plan.

### 940.3 RECREATION TRAIL PERMITS

#### 940.3.1 Storm Water Discharge

In general, any trail construction or rehabilitation activities that disturb one acre of more of land will require a Storm Water Discharge Permit. There have been instances of inconsistent application of permit requirements statewide. In order to

further define the County's understanding and implementation of permit requirements, the following current acceptable process will be used for determining when a permit is needed.

- The 1 acre threshold will be determined by measuring/estimated new disturbance or disturbance of previously grassed surfaces.
- Periodic grading of impervious or non-grassed trail surfaces is not considered disturbance.
- Restoration of water filtration/diversion devices, such as sediment traps or catch basins is considered maintenance and not disturbance
- Reconstruction of previously grassed ditch lines as part of trail rehabilitation is considered disturbance.

#### 940.3.2 Chapter 30

Permits are required for bridges or culvert crossings of navigable waterways. These permits will either be classified as general or individual depending on specific site conditions. These permits are not required for culvert or bridge crossings of non-navigable or intermittent streams, nor or they required to install a clear span bridge over wetlands.

#### 940.3.3 Wetland Fill

Permits are required at any time that fill is placed in a wetland. Permits are available to fill small wetlands for recreation trail purposes. Wetland fill must be less than 10,000 square feet and the permit does not require wetland mitigation. Clear span bridge and boardwalks placed on pilings generally do not require a wetland fill permit. Puncheon style bridges do require a permit.

## **945 RECREATION PROGRAM FUNDING AND GRANTS**

### **945.1 RECREATION AREA FUNDING**

Funding for recreation areas is generally fee based. Aid for Development of Local Parks (ADLP) funding is available for facility development or enhancement but there is normally a very high level of completion for these funds.

## 945.2 RECREATION TRAIL FUNDING

### 945.2.1 Non-motorized trail systems

At this time, there is very limited access to any grant funds that will assist with non-motorized recreational trail maintenance. The County relies on funding within the annual budget and from volunteer groups to plan, construct and maintain non-motorized recreational trails.

### 945.2.2 Motorized trail systems

There are numerous grant programs available to offset motorized trail system costs. Marinette County utilizes the following funding sources:

1. Snowmobile Maintenance - \$300/mile
2. ATV/UTV Summer Maintenance - \$800/mile
3. ATV Winter Maintenance - \$200/mile
4. ATV Rehabilitation - 100% grants
5. ATV Development - 100% grants
6. TROURE Maintenance - \$249.50/mile

## **950 PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RECREATION PROGRAM**

The following are recommended changes that this Plan recognizes as improvements or enhancements to the recreation program.

### 950.1 ENFORCEMENT NEEDS

Currently, two full-time Recreational Officers enforce the County Forest Ordinances. Adding a third full-time officer is something to consider to help meet the needs of enforcing the County Ordinances as recreational use increases on the County Forest.

### 950.2 STAFF NEEDS

Additional Parks staff may be needed as current campgrounds expand and new campgrounds are added.

### 950.3 CAMPGROUNDS

Expanding the current campgrounds to provide more amenities, additional and larger campsites, and an overall better camping experience is currently being explored.

### 950.4 PARKS

Expanding the current parks to provide more opportunities and better overall experiences is being explored.

### 950.5 TRAILS

Designated mountain bike trails and cross country ski trails are currently in the developmental stages and are on schedule to be open for use in late 2022 or early 2023.